



Bush River Community Council  
Anita C. Leight Estuary, 700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD 21009  
Third Tuesday of every month  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Monday, May 19, 2014  
Meeting called to order at 6:40pm.

**Attendance:** Chairman, Chris Henn. No other Board members were present. Others in attendance were Dion Guthrie Councilman for District A, Captain Jon Krass HCSO Southern Precinct, Manley Paul Calhoun III representative for MaryAnn Lisanti Councilwoman District F,

Andrew Tress representative for HC Council President Billy Boniface, Mike Blizzard candidate for State Delegate 34A, Tom Fitzpatrick Candidate for Harford County Board of Education District F, Bob Oberle BGE representative and guest speaker, Jerald Weeler, and Curtis Beulah.

**Bob Oberle:** BGE spokesperson talked about the installation of the new Smart Meters being installed in Harford County. Stated BGE is working to provide every home and small business in our area with new digital smart meters. These meters will ultimately improve the reliability of your power and give you more tools and opportunities to manage and save energy. Question was asked what happens if someone wants to opt out of receiving a smart meter. Customers who choose to opt out of having a smart meter installed will be charged a one-time fee of \$75.00, which will be billed in three equal monthly installments, and an additional monthly fee of \$11.00. Customers who wish to opt out may contact BGE online, by phone, or by letter. To learn more about opting out of smart meters, visit [BGE.COM/SMARTMETEROPTOUT](http://BGE.COM/SMARTMETEROPTOUT).

Smart meters communicate with BGE using radio frequency (RF) similar to many common devices such as cordless phones and remote controls. You can go to [BGE.COM/SMARTGRID](http://BGE.COM/SMARTGRID) for more information.

BGE smart energy rewards will help a customer save money on energy savings days. These days are usually the hottest days of the summer and during the weekday. BGE will notify you between 4 pm -8 pm by phone, email or text the day before an Energy Savings Day will occur. To make sure you receive these notifications, log into your [BGE.COM](http://BGE.COM) account to update your email address and phone number. A

customer will earn bill credits for reducing your electricity usage between 1 pm -7 pm on the designated Energy Savings Days. You can earn a bill credit of \$1.25 for every kilowatt-hour saved on these days compared to your typical usage on similar weather days. (This is an average summer savings during the pilot program from June 2008 – Sept 2012. Your actual savings may vary).

**Tom Fitzpatrick:** District F, Candidate for Board of Education District F, He was appointed for his seat to finish out a term. Just 2 weeks into the job he had to help pass the budget. Number 2 position for a new high school is in Havre de Grace. There is a difference of opinion about how to allocate money for schools when it is either on Route 40 vs. Bel Air. The county ran out of snow days this winter. Many schools did make-up by having in home make-up days using tablets. Harford County still has 23 schools that are not wired for internet. Tom addressed Harford County's entry level for teacher's pay is less than many other counties in the State of MD. And the teachers have not seen a pay increase in many years. We are losing many experienced teachers to other MD counties. Tom sees our students as the future of our county and we need to find a way to funding our schools for the years to come. Tom wants to keep his seat on the Board of Education to continue to push forward into the future of education.

**Mike Blizzard:** Stated he was here to learn about the communities and their concerns.

**Captain Jon Krass:** HCSO stated the number one crime is cars being left unlocked and making it very easy for them to be opened and items of value stolen. Captain Krass is advising residents to "Get out of their comfort zone" and LOCK your cars, sheds and homes. Big item of theft is copper. Many vacant homes have had the copper piping cut out. Also construction sites are seeing a rise in vandalism with copper being stolen out of the new homes. HCSO currently have 8 bicycles for sheriff's officers to use when patrolling communities. According to the District Crime Report for Sector 20 in comparison from this time in April 2013 to April of 2014:

	2013	2014
#1 alarms	50	51
#2 suspicious Incidents	28	43
#3 domestics	27	21

Total Calls for service in 2013 was 1286, April 2014 calls were 1491 which is a total increase of 16%. Total crashes on HC roads in April 2013 were one (1) and in 2014 it was three (3) which makes it an increase of 20%. Captain Krass urges for drivers of motor vehicles to slow down and pay more attention to the roads and travelers. Part One Crime has seen a 50% to 100% decrease in 2014 compared to 2013.

**Dion Guthrie:** Councilman for District A, talked about Bill Referendum # 1416 which is about the Board of Appeals. Right now the Board of Appeals is made up of the Harford County Council Representatives for all the districts. Councilman Guthrie does not agree with the fact that the council members are the Board of Appeals. The council members are to represent the residents of Harford County. So if a resident of the county has an issue about their property, they cannot get advice from their councilperson because it would be a conflict of interest because their councilperson is the one making the decision when it comes to the Board of Appeals.

Manley Calhoun III: Legislative Representative for MaryAnn Lisanti said the council has finished the budget sessions. Ms. Lisanti is working on the development project at Perryman proposed project of East Gate Warehouses. Trying to work on making advancements to the Route 715 access roadway as an option for traffic to and from these warehouse sites so they would not have to travel over top of the well heads that collect ground water for most of Harford County.

She is suggesting moving Capital Funds from one place to another. The Bel Air Auto Auction is bringing their business to Route 7 across from the entrance to Hollywood's. Ms. Lisanti is working on trying to find out if there could be an access road through the Riverside Business Park that would enable trucks bringing cars to and from the auction in on that road instead of Route 7. Ms. Lisanti is looking for a way to fund money for our teachers' salaries.

Chris asked if anyone had anything else to contribute to the meeting. No one replied.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next meeting is on Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm.